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·HENRY HURT·

REASONABLE DOUBT

An Investigation into the Assassination of John F. Kennedy

"A national disgrace."

That is how Henry Hurt, author of REASONABLE DOUBT: An Investigation into the Assassination of John F. Kennedy (Henry Holt & Co.;January 27; $19.95) refers to the morass of hidden facts, powerful contradictions, half-truths and outright lies that have grown around the aftermath of JFK's assassination. "All the individual deceits--the denial of a valid witness's credibility, the failure to pursue a legitimate lead, the shading of facts to fit a mold, the false classification of a document, the destruction of even the tiniest bit of evidence--compound to form what must be called a national disgrace," writes Hurt: a disgrace that must be laid at the doorstep of our own government.

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Now, after more than four years of intensive research, Henry Hurt has written REASONABLE DOUBT. A work of chilling conviction and sober analysis, REASONABLE DOUBT builds on the work of other investigations into the Kennedy assassination while blazing new trails into the jungle of obfuscation that bureaucratic ineptitude and a flagrant disregard for the truth have created since that tragic moment on November 22, 1963.

Among the questions posed by REASONABLE DOUBT:

* Why do 4 out of 5 Americans today express disbelief over the official explanation of JFK's assassination?

* Why has the Justice Department failed to take action on the House Select Committee's finding that a film made moments before the assassination clearly shows two men in the windows of the Texas School Book Depository's sixth floor, from which Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly shot the president?

* How did Oswald manage the spectacular shooting he is credited with while using one of the worst rifles ever manufactured, and with shooting skills remembered by his Marine buddies as a "joke"? And why have official re-creations of the shooting by a lone marksman failed to achieve Oswald's proficiency?

* Why did the FBI spend over an hour with the corpse of Lee Harvey Oswald at Miller's Funeral Home in Ft. Worth taking palm- and fingerprints after they had already obtained a complete set of fingerprints at the time of his arrest?

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* Why did the FBI conceal Jack Ruby's overt connections to organized crime in Cuba, Dallas and New Orleans from the Warren Commission, which subsequently pronounced Ruby's shooting of Oswald the act of "a loner"?

* Who was "the other Oswald"?

* What government official permitted the deportation of French terrorist Jean Souetre from the Dallas area on the very day of Kennedy's assassination?

* Why did Commander James J. Humes, the physician in charge of the autopsy on the president conducted at Bethesda Naval Hospital, burn his autopsy notes after writing his report?

But the most shocking revelation of all in REASONABLE DOUBT is the confession of Robert Easterling, the only individual in more than 25 years to come forward with a full, detailed admission of participation in the conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy. A brutal drifter with a recent history of instability, Easterling nevertheless presents--in the course of more than one hundred hours of interviews with the author--a convincing case that he could have been involved with a group that murdered the president. Robert Easterling's confession--a confession that the FBI continues to ignore--is published for the first time within the pages of REASONABLE DOUBT.

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Despite the Freedom of Information Act that has, in theory, made the internal documents of the FBI, the Secret Service and the CIA available to the public for inspection, more than one-half million pages of documents remain under wraps. Is the answer to the crime of the century buried within those pages? As the author writes in his introduction,

> the political impact of Kennedy's death is why the question of his assassination is as important today as it was twenty years ago--and as it will be two decades hence, and for all the days of this republic. If the atrocity was the result of a conspiracy,the country and its government even at this hour are subtly threatened by a cunning, invisible enemy as politically potent as the most menacing superpower. Moreover, the historical integrity of the whole country remains fractured until the questions are answered.

REASONABLE DOUBT
by Henry Hurt
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For the past ten years, Henry Hurt has worked as an investigative reporter and magazine writer covering espionage activities and incidents of domestic terrorism. His last book, SHADRIN: The Spy Who Never Came Back, is a microscopic examination of one of the strangest real-life spy cases ever to reach the public domain. Revelations made in SHADRIN became front-page news around the world.

Born in Virginia, Hurt graduated from the University of Mississippi. He has worked as a reporter for several newspapers in the South, where he covered the Civil Rights activities during the mid-sixties. In 1968, Hurt and a colleague founded a weekly newspaper in New York called City News, which continues to thrive. After several years in New York as a magazine editor, Hurt moved to rural Virginia, where he lives with his wife and three children.